(c) and (d) Against a targeted length of 2,013 km under National Highways Development Project (NHDP) Phase-II, comprising the North South-East West (NS-EW) corridors and other highways, a length of 1,020 km was completed in 2007-08. The reasons for shortfall include the problems in land acquisition, tree cutting, utility shifting and law and order problems in some stretches. The performance of some contractors has also not been satisfactory leading to shortfall in achievement of target.

India overtaking China in road accidents

3358. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

whether India has overtaken China to be the world's number one in terms of death by road accidents, recording 1,05,749 deaths in 2006 against China's toll of 89,445;

whether Sundar Committee report was submitted to Government is February, 2007 and whether it has since been tabled in Parliament; and

(c) the status of the Road Safety Bill based on Sundar Committee Report and also the implementation of the proposed amendments to the Motor Vehicles Act?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA: (a) International Roads Federation brings out World Road Statistics annually which, among others, contains country-wise data on road accidents. The latest available publication on World Road Statistics is for the year 2007 which provides data till 2005. As per the publication, World Road Statistics-2007 the number of persons killed in road accidents in China during the year 2005 was 98,738 while the number of persons killed in India during the same period as reported by the States and Union Territories was 94,968.

However, as per the reports contained in the Chinese Government's Official Web portal http://engIish.gov.cn/, the number of road accident deaths was reported at 89,455 during the year 2006. The number of persons who were killed in road accidents in India during the year 2006 (the latest year for which data is available) has been provisionally palced as 1,05,749 persons.

The Committee on Road Safety and Traffic Management headed by Shri S. Sundar, former Secretary of erstwhile Ministry of Surface Transport submitted its report to the Government on 20.2.07. Since this was only an internal committee constituted by this Ministry, there was no requirement to table its report in Parliament.

The Sundar Committee in its report, *inter-alia* recommended creation of National Road Safety and Traffic Management Board through an Act of Parliament namely National Road Safety and Traffic Management Act. The Committee of Secretaries in its meeting held on 4.3.08 has in principle accepted the report of the Committee for creation of National Road Safety and Traffic Management Board.

The Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Bill, 2007 was introduced in Rajya Sabha on 15.5.07 with a view to incorporate comprehensive amendment in Motor Vehicles Act, 1988 to meet the present day requirement of regulation of motor vehicle traffic. Hon'ble Chairman, Rajya Sabha had referred the Bill to the Department related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Transport, Tourism and Culture for examination.